

I believe the Federal Communications Commission should strongly promote continued interest in CW and should support retaining a Morse Code test requirement for those who wish to use CW. A special class of license should be established for that purpose or the Extra Class could be used, as proposed in the subject petition.

CW was among the earliest modes used in radio communications and is still widely used throughout the world in Amateur Radio. It should be fostered as an honored tradition. It is a distinction which continues to differentiate Amateur Radio from most other radio services. Many Radio Amateurs are proud of that heritage and that they still maintain their Morse Code proficiency. While Amateurs need to stay at the forefront of radio communications technology, they also recognize that Amateur Radio is a hobby and as such it has a place and a need for its' traditions.

Surprisingly, Morse Code continues to excite considerable interest in non-hams. While few non-hams can copy the code, many people recognize its' sound and are fascinated by it. The code has a mystery about it that draws attention even from the uninitiated. I think hams would attract much more attention to an Amateur Radio demonstration at a public forum with CW than with other, more common modes. We should not throw away this unique aspect of Amateur Radio.

Morse Code is understood worldwide by people speaking a broad diversity of languages. It substantially facilitates communication among ethnic groups which speak different languages, thereby promoting international goodwill.

Morse Code transmitters and receivers are easy to understand and to build and can be inexpensive, promoting communication with economically disadvantaged populations. Such radios also provide a first step in understanding radio technologies.

CW is an excellent communication mode under emergency conditions, when makeshift or damaged radios may be the only radios available. It is extremely effective in the face of interference or with weak signals, by virtue of its narrow bandwidth.

Morse Code is also a valuable resource for non-radio emergency communications, such as with blinker lights or with sound (tapping, etc). A reservoir of Morse Code talent should be maintained in the United States for that reason.

Other commenters will provide additional excellent rationale for supporting the code. I hope these comments add something of value.

Thank you